

# 2015 South Bend Common Council



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*Council President*

Derek D. Dieter, At Large

*Vice-President*

Karen L. White, At Large

*Committee of the Whole Chair*

Henry Davis, Jr. 2nd

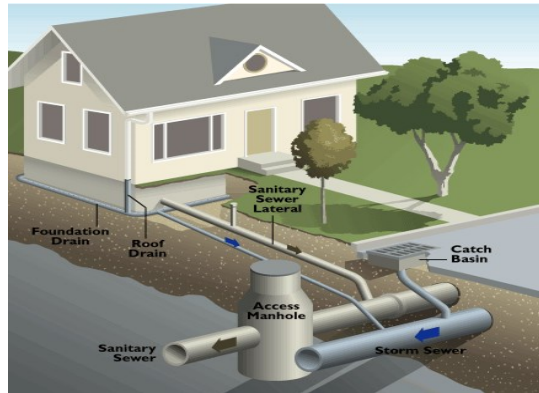
Valerie Schey, 3rd

Dr. Fred Ferlic, 4th

Dr. David Varner, 5th

Oliver J. Davis, 6th

Gavin Ferlic, At Large



The Utilities Committee reviews all proposed rate and charge increases filed by the City Administration. The Common Council is to review every two (2) years "all rates and charges of the waterworks" pursuant to § 17-48 of the *City Code*. The City Administration is to provide "all pertinent data needed by the Common Council on or before June 1st".

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## Utilities Committee

South Bend  
Common Council  
4th Floor County-City  
Building  
227 W. Jefferson Blvd.,  
Downtown South Bend

# Utilities Committee South Bend Common Council

2015



**"oversees the activities of all enterprise entities including but not limited to the Bureau of Waterworks, Bureau of Sewers and all related matters"**



**Dr. David Varner**

5th District

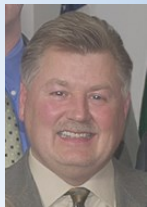
Chairperson



**Dr. Fred Ferlic**

4th District

Vice-Chairperson



**Derek D. Dieter**

At Large

Council Member



**Gavin Ferlic**

At Large

Council Member

Jack Smith, Special

Senior Advisor

*Citizen Members:*

Christopher Huff

Kathleen Petijean

Utilities Committee meetings are

governed by the Indiana Open Door Law, Indiana Code § 5-14-1.5.



## **Bureau of Sewers**

The City of South Bend maintains 525 miles of storm and sanitary sewers; and repairs sewer mains, catch basins, and manholes.

## **Division of Waste Water**

South Bend's wastewater treatment plant is located at 3113 Riverside Drive.

## **Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)**

The Utilities Committee is proactively meeting to work to have the City's CSO Project modified since it would be the largest expenditure of taxpayer dollars in the history of the City.

On **December 29, 2011**, the US Attorney's Office & the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the **City of South Bend** agreed to make an **estimated \$509.5 million worth of improvements to its combined sewer system (CSO)**.

The **Consent Decree** entered in the US District Court **requires South Bend to implement a Long -Term Control Plan (LTCP) by 2031**.

By way of comparison, in 2014, the EPA announced that **Mishawaka's Consent Decree includes a 20 year period to complete an estimated \$132.1 million of CSO improvements**. Multiple meetings were held in 2014 with the City Administration regarding the feasibility of reassessing the CSO long-term control plan., especially since as of December of 2013, the **projected cost to South Bend residents when the CSO improvement cost is adjusted for inflation becomes \$667 million**.

The City's overall goal is to "develop a combined sewer overflow plan that saves money and enhances the environment". Data is being gathered during the reassessment process. It will include reviewing technical solutions addressing the water treatment plant, green infrastructure, and water-courses; followed by an analysis of options focusing on affordability and meeting EPA Standards. Once the best solutions are found, the alternatives would be negotiated with EPA and IDEM resulting in a new LTCP , a modified Consent Decree., and hopefully savings of taxpayer dollars.

## **Sewer & Water Rates and Charges**

§ 17-21 of the *City Code* sets forth the sewer rates for 2015 and 2016., which became effective in 2014 when Ordinance No. 10290-14 was passed by the Common Council on February 10, 2014. **At the request of City Administrations sewer rate increases were 24% in 2003, 29% in 2005, 15% in 2007, 11% in 2009 and 9% in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014**. The sewer rates are based on the "quantity of water used on or in the property...measured by the water meter...plus a base charge based on the size of the water meter installed". Meters are read monthly and users are billed monthly. A heavy demand surcharge is addressed in § 17-23 of the *City Code*.

Water Works rates & charges were last adjusted in 2006 and are found in § 17-45 of the *City Code*.